

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

# Barcia Press Release

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## **BARCIA & RIVET HAIL GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO INCLUDE M-84 PROJECT AS A "PRIORITY"**

(LANSING)—State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) and Representative Joseph Rivet (D-Bay City) today applauded Governor Granholm's decision to fund the second phase of the M-84 project as part of the state transportation budget for fiscal year 2004.

Earlier this month, the Governor vetoed 34 new highway construction projects, including the M-84 project, that were included as part of a supplemental budget bill. At the time, the Governor did maintain that she would continue to work with legislative leadership to identify priority road projects.

"I am absolutely ecstatic that the Governor saw the benefits in continuing work on this important project," said Barcia. "Continuing with the widening of the M-84 project makes sense from both an economic and a public safety perspective. This much needed work will prevent congestion and delays on the main artery between Saginaw and Bay Counties."

"I am pleased that the Governor has made this project a priority," said Rivet. "I appreciate the efforts of the Governor and legislative leadership to move this project forward. The citizens of Bay County – and the entire Tri-County area – will now have better access and a safer route in an area that has seen a dramatic increase in traffic."

In today's announcement, the Governor recommended the restoration of 17 of the 34 delayed road projects to their previous construction schedule. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will resume the construction phase of the M-84 project which will include a four-lane boulevard from north of Pierce to Delta; and a variable three to five-lane cross-section from Delta to M-13 (Euclid Ave) in Bay City. Right-of-way acquisition is complete for the entire segment. The Governor has allocated \$13 million in FY 2004 for a project that is estimated to be \$28 million to complete.

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